THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the reported remarks of General Pervez Musharraf which contain his misconceptions about India's approach towards Pakistan and on the alleged reasons for Pakistan's need for a new naval base. These remarks reflect Pakistan's compulsive hostility towards India.

Government remain committed to building trust and confidence, putting into place a stable structure of cooperation and addressing all outstanding issues with Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. We expect Pakistan to demonstrate its adherence to these agreements by abandoning its sponsorship of crossborder terrorism and stopping its hostile propaganda against India.

Tripartite talks on India-Iran Gas Pipeline

538. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Pakistan for holding tripartite talks with itself, India and Iran to evolve a political understanding on the proposed Iran-India gas pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMER PANJA): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Refugees from Sri Lanka

539. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a flood of refugees from Sri Lanka had started crossing into India, following the capture of Jaffna by LTTE;